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TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1905.

Library or No Library.

It is very hard for us to reconcile the differences of those esteemed citizens who object to accepting Mr. Carnegie's proposed contribution toward a public library for Richmond. Some of them say on the one hand that they would be willing to accept a free and unconditional gift, but should obligate itself to comply with Mr.

Others say that they are unwilling for upon any terms, as it would be putting

wast fortune, most, of which he has determined to give away luring his-lifetime. To amploy the expression of a well known Wirginia citizen, lately dend, Mr. Carnegle is administering on his own estate. He made his fortune in America and it is his idea to give it back in great part to the people from whom it came; or to put it another way, to invest his money in public institutions which, he lectually and morally to the people at large. But he is disbursing his money in her hands. his own way, and making his own terms. He is not dealing with Richmond alone but with many cities, and the general con dition is that wherever he invests a sum of money in a library it shall be on condition that the city shall furnish the site and by ordinance of council agree to make an annual appropriation for maintenance. There are positively no other conditions. It is a simple business proposition. Mr. provided the city will agree to do its part; and if the city does agree, if the city complies with his terms, there can be no is no obligation about it. Indeed, the objection of most of the objectors is that Mr. Carnegle's terms are too harsh, and that the city cannot afford to accept them. That of itself is conclusive of our contention that there could be no embarrassing obligation on the part of Rich-

But are the terms too harsh. The objectors of the latter class argue that we would be paying an interest rate of 10 per cent, on the amount of money which Mn. Carnegle proposes to contribute. But that objection will not hold, for the apthat objection will not hold, for the appropriation of \$10,000 a, year would be for the support of the library, for the payment of current expenses, and not a cent of it would be paid out on interest account. Let us illustrate: Suppose the city of Richmond should decline Mr. Carnegie's offer and decide fo issue bonds amounting to \$100,000 to put up the building. The city would have to pay the interest on those bonds which would be at the rate of Aper cent, and in addition would have those bonds which would be at the rate of 4 per cent, and in addition would have to make the same appropriation of \$10,000 a year or more for current expenses. In that event we should be paying the same amount for expenses that we would be paying under the Carnegle plan, and in addition we should be paying 4 per cent. Interest on a debt of \$100,000, which in time we should have to discharge, It is not necessary to argue that as a business proposition it is far better for us to accept Mr. Carnegle's offer than to build a processory to argue that as a business proposition it is far better for us to accept Mr. Carnegle's offer than to build a processory to argue that as a business proposition it is far better for us to accept Mr. Carnegle's offer than to build a processory to allow the paying and the paying th

Council to consider. With all respect, the ibstitute propositions amount to nothing. It is the Carnegie plan, or no library.

The Fall of Port Arthur.

The inevitable has come to pass. Port Arthur has fallen. General Stoessel made a manful resistance, and he will go down to history as one of the distinguished heroes of the twentieth century. It was not, as at one time it seemed to be, mercly a stubborn, purposeless fight-to-theart-fitch struggla There was method in salking resistance. In holding Port known as the "mir." A union of such

The Times-Dispatch Arthur he kept a Japanese fleet engaged soldiers from joining the main army and giving additional force against Kuropatkin. He also made the capture as expensive as possible for Japan, and the price to Japan in men and money was enor-

In the meantime, he gave the Baltic fleet a chance to arrive, and he gave the home government valuable opportunity to atrengthen Kuropation's position. True the end came before the Baltlo fleet reached its journey's end, and we do not know how well the Czar has turned to good account the opportunity to strengthen his position on the fighting line in Manchuria. But General Stoessel seems to have done all that mortal man could do to delay the fall of Port Arthur to the last moment. It is quite certain that the victory would have been worth more to Japan had it come several months

render of Port Arthur is in the nature of must be in high gice that the nation receives it. This is the second time within few years Japan has taken Port Arthur. She captured it from the Chinese on November 28, 1894, and when she came to settle she demanded the cession in per petuity and full sovereignty, together with all fortifications, arsenals and public property therein; the southern part of tiye province of Fong-Tien, the part of Manchuria demanded being the territory which her soldiers had run over an occupied, including Port Arthur. China readily yielded, and all this territory was But after the manner of diplomacy, Russla, Germany and France "advised" Japan not to take any part of Chinese territory, but only an indemnity in money. Japan tions, which she dared not disobey. that they are not willing that the city to come. Having ingratiated herself with China by making this loan, in 1898 Russia leased from China this same Port Arthur for a period of twenty-five years! Imag the city of Richmond to accept such girt ine Japan's chagrin and indignation when the city under an obligation to an outsider which she had won as a price of war upon whose bounty we have no sort of and which was so valuable to her in her struggle against Russlan encroachment the prize which sho was forced, through tions. Mr. Carnegie has accumulated a Russia's agency, to give up, had now be come a Russian port, and would be a most important factor in furthering Russia's schemes.

wonder she made such savage assaults was declared, and no wonder she kent up the savage assaults until every ship in the harbor was destroyed and until the garrison in the fort was compelled to surrender; and no wonder that there is will be of great benefit intel- great rejoicing in Japan to-day that once more the coveted prize has fallen into

The Russian Democracy. We have upon more than one occusion made reference to the Russian democracy, and have said that it is a living, exacting who writes an instructive article on the North American Review, a greater force and a more intelligent force than outsizes the fact that although Russia is an absolute monarchy; the unit of state orembarrassing obligation in accepting. It ganization is the village community known is a bargain pure and simple, and there as the "mir," whose constitution is identhat the Russian "mir" as it appears to the traveler to-day is a vivid illustration of the village life of the founders of the English kingdom at the time the migration into Britain began.

Says Sir Donald MacKenzie Wallace.

in his recent book on Russia; 14 "In 'the great stronghold of Caesarian espotism and centralized bureaucracy," cept Mr. Carnegie's offer than to build a \$100,000 library on our own account. Moreover, everybody knows that a propestion to issue \$100,000 of bonds to build a library for Richmond would not be seriously entertained in the Council at this time, and if Mr. Carnele's offer is accilled it will be many a long day before Richmond has a public library or noisshall we have a public library or noisshall we accept Mr. Carnegie's offer to this-shall we accept Mr. Carnegie's offer or give up every possible chance, for the present at least, of having a public library? That is the question for the Council to consider. With all respect, the

"Who can read that description," says Dr. Taylor, "without comparing the Russian village with a New England town meeting, which is simply a reproduction in American soil of the old English township, as it appeared before it was ever overlaid by ecclesiastical and feudal organizations?" Dr. Taylor then proceeds to say that of the 68,600,000 who formed the rural population of European Russia in 1882, the greater part were settled in 55C.378 villages, where this form of democratic rule obtains. The unit of state organization is still the village community

habitants elect an elder. The elder of the volost and his clerk have become, however, mere organs of the local police and tax-gatherers, while the tribunal of the volost is at the mercy both of hiffuential land proprietors and of the wealthier peasants or merchants, subject as they are to the uncontrolled rule of a state official. The system of local self-government is also continued in the elective district and provincial assemblies, on the one hand, and, on the other, the elective justices of the peace, whose periodical gatherings are courts of appeal against the decisions of the individual justices, But neither of these institutions is capable of acquiring the necessary independence. The zematvos-one for trict and another for the province-consists of a representative assembly and an executive nominated by the While in theory the zemstyes have hurge powers in relation to the incidents of taxation as well as to matters affecting education, public health, roads and the t fine New Year's gift to Japun, and it like, for decisions are zealously controlled by the representative of the central government, the governor, and promptly annulled whenever they conflict with the spirit prevailing at the time of the court. Disobedience is punished by dissolution and sometimes by administrative exilecircumstances which have tended to eliminate from the zemstvos the better clement that entered originally into their composition. In the line of this statement, concludes the writer, it may be casier to understand the significance of the recent conference of the presidents of the zemstvos, whose memorial, in the words of a Russian editor, "embodies to the last word the science of constitution government."

It is evident' to Dr. Taylor's mind that the point has been reached when a representative national assembly, a real parlament on the modern plan, is about to "break out" in Russia, as a House of Burgesses "broke out" in Virginia in 1819. He says, in conclusion, that Russian people have been having the best of all conament, the ideal training out of w has grown the representative assemblies of England and the United States, and here is no reason why a parliamentary system should not be rapidly developed in Russia, because the entire substructure of the state is composed of nurseries in which the principle of election and repreentation by small (democracies is in full

These statements of fact and these conclusions by a leading diplomat are all the more significant on this day when the fall of Port Arthur is announced.

The New York Times.

At the beginning of the New Year the now building, which has been referred to by experts as one of the notable architectural triumphs of the world. The city of New York in recognition of this fact has named the district from Forty-second Street, north for seven blocks along Broadway and Seventh Avenue, "Times Square" and the subway station in the basement of the building bears the same

Times moved its entire battery of type setting machines from No. 32 Park Row to Times Square, a distance of three miles after midnight. A force of one hundred and fifty expert machinists accomplished the work successfully and on Sunday night the same machines that did similar work fifteen hours earlier three miles away set up the paper in the new building.

The building is the city's tallest strucstories with an extreme height of 476 feet. The total weight of the building is nearly 33,000,000 pounds, and a new record in struction, as it contains a larger percentage of steel to cubican contents than and set up from the fourteenth twenty-fifth floors. The press plant has cupacity of 144,016 pages every hour, and provision has been made to increase this

capacity to 432,000. Times was an unprofitable newspaper, and seemed to be doomed to fallure, but under the management of Mr. Adolph S. Ochs it has become one of the leading newspapers of New York and one of the most profitable. It is in all respects a splendld journal, showing great enterprise in the collection and distribution of news, adhering strictly to its noble motto, "All the news that's fit to print," In its editorial conduct it is honest and fearless, and a power for good. The Times-Dispatch extends a hearty New Year greeting.

"How to treat tramps" is a question sociologists are wrestling with, and the Atlanta Journal commends to them the Georgia method, which is to "set the dogs on them."

It is believed in some quarters that the Garfield proposition to have the government charter corporations is a direct blow at New Jerseys most profitable indus-

the New Year as dry towns, and both are now laughing at the big dispensary house in Raleigh.

Up to date nobody has heard of any of the persons who consider Tom Wat-

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HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS.

communities is callet a voicet, whose in- son their enemy, praying that he shall write a bent

Year good resolution, jump right up and make it again. You may do better next

The Japs found mighty little that was worth having when they finally got into the old town, but they got the town, any

The weather seems to have also made New Year pledge to do better, but it is a brittle one soon to be broken, we fear

The boll weevil is of the opinion that the farmers in Georgia who have cotton to burn should be suppressed at onue.

Don't be greatly alarmed. Those Geor gia cotton fires will not spread very far or consume much cotton where they are

A big clock on the top of one of Rich mond's skyscrapers would be a blessing and a comfort for miles around.

Year about the livest "political corpse New York ever produced.

And now what is there for Rojestvent sky and his Baltic fleet to do!

The Russians made a bad New Year's

beginning at Port Arthur. Of course, Odell was in favor of Depew

all the time.

Tax Eaters vs. Tax Payers. Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—The long pies of the State librarian for a free public library may be reduced to two short "Whys," the rest of his pies being large claims that the library will be extensively used and that the benefit will, be great.

The first Why is: Because tax-payers and women and children want benefits, mostly imaginary, or a free library without paying the price. And the second Why is:

Because other dities have free public libraries.

If these arguments are yald then Rich-

will never be done, providing free and having everything any other

things and having everything any other city has.

For if a free library, which may be useful, but is not essential, why not free school books, free gos, free water, free medical attendance which are not only useful, but essential, but scores of other free good things?

And if a free library because other cities have a free library, then for the honor of Richmond we should appoint a roving committee of tax-eaters to visit the cities of the land to discover whatever free they may have that we have not, and then introduce them here, for Richmond, dear Richmond, should have everything that any other city has, and more besides.

more besides. It is natural; of course, for tax-eaters like librarians, college presidents and professors to advocate free libraries occause it is their trade and their living, but that is the very reason we should accept their advice with realtion, because they are interested withesses.

And it is also natural for other tax-eaters, like preachers, office-holders, teachers, policemen, etc., to advocate free libraries, because it, too, is their trade to advocate free things, incl. only from a natural esprit de corps, but because the more tree things the better they think it for themselves. But then their wishes and advice! foot with interested and therefore of little' wishes and should be carefully weighted, it not rejected.

Tax-baters personally are worthy folks generally, but they are of little' if any direct benefit to the community; as a rule they add not a cent to wealth or tax-able values and they only live on the wealth produced by tax-payers. Eliminate tax-payers and tax-eaters perish, or reduce the productiveness of tax-payers and tax-eaters suffer, unless forsooth tiefs hold on the public teat is so strong that they will continue to increase, until they destroy the State, instances of which abound in history.

Now it is tax-eaters mostly who are demanding a free public library, refrected by a few tax-payers who are possessed of the lax sides that because they are willing to be taxed that, therefore, all should be taxed, or who are inociplated with the idea of the duty of 'doing good,' but whose ideas in this respect tend to prauperize, rather than to elevate, to impair rather than to elevate, to impair rather than to increase self-respect. Without paying the price. The word "free" smacks too much of mendicancy for line self-respecting man, and he will have hone of it, even though sugar-coated with 'library'-free library should be ashumed to admit even by implication that they are lacking in that best element of manhood-self-respect.

The advocates of a free library should be ashumed to admit even by i

and look and march shead are their mottees.

Richmond, on the contrary, is a city of prayer meetings and secret societies, both male and female, and its practice, ir not its motto-is "looking backward." The men nominally rule, but the women, an as socrates son ruling Athens, and when preachers rule good bye to progress, for their trade and their welfare is conservatism, that is, to keep things in statu qui and if possible as they were 2,000 years ago.

in statu gou and if possible as they were 2,000 years ago.

Richmond, therefore being so radically different from Atlanta, the argument really is that what succeeds in Atlanta will fall here, and that a successful free public library here.

The fact is Richmond is not a reading city, and never will be until she ceases to look backward and to look forward, ont forward, unfortunately to this life, but to a life that begins after this life ends.

not forward, unfortunitely to this life ends.

Richmond has had libraries where a small annual fee was required, but too simil to deter anybody who had any real desire to read, but the libraries are dead or moribund. The Rosemary Library was established some twenty years ago by public spirited citizons, but although the fee was only \$5 per annum, and \$1 for working women, it has never prospered and its present condition is a most melancholy tribute to our lack of desire for reading. And the library of the Y. M. C. A.? That, we believe, has a never shown the existence of a reading spirit, and while we hear calls for the Y. M. C. A. in many directions we hear little of calls for the library. People who are unwilling to pay the small price required to obtain the use of good books are never likely to make valuable use of a free library after they get it. Indications hawver, are that the women and tax-catess will carry the day and that in spite of the fact that Richmond, according to Golonei Cutahaw, needs \$10,000.00 to put her streets in good condition. This, however, will only be

CATALOR FREE.

SHORT TALKS ON RAILROADS. ADVANCE IN FREIGHT RATES

Ricircad carnings and the iron market are said to be the great batometers of trade and prosperity. When the prime of fron goes below the normal and railroad earnings fall off, every indication points to hard times. At least, this used to be the case. A few months are the extraordinary phenomenon was noted in the low price of from white continual advances in the net earnings of railroads. All sorts of explanations were offered for this condition, one of which is that advanced by the Interstate Commerce Commission in its report for 1805, which says that the increased railroad earnings is a direct result of a steady advance in freight rates. A few years ago, said the Commission, it was thought that rates could not be advanced, and it was stated, under eath by many financiers, who had bought and consolidated various railroad systems, that their object was not to increase, but to reduce rates by reducing the cost of operation. History, however, done not bear out their statements. The rates have been advanced in various ways.

First, the published rate itself has been advanced in various ways.

First, the published rate itself has been advanced. For example, from St. Louis to the Southwest, staple class rates are both higher to-day than when they were first filed in 1857, while rates upon these commedities, which constitute the bulk of the interstate traffic, have been advanced not only through the Southwest section of the country, but through, the country a large. The freight rates for doal, fron, ferain, lumber and live stock all are higher to-day than they were four years ago.

Second, other advances have been made by change of classification, thereby raising the class of goods from a cheaper to a higher rate.

Third, many commodities which formerly had a special rate, have been restored to the classified list, and there has been a constant tendency to withdraw all special privileges.

Fourth, the railreads are maintaining rates in a way that they never did be-

Fourth, the railroads are maintaining rates in a way that they never did be fore, and this amounts to a very considerable percentage in a year. One traffic, manager testified before the Commission that at least 10 per cent. of its gross carnings used to be paid annually in rebates. This would probably be an excessive percentage for the whole of America, but it gives some idea of the increased cost to

the public of transportation.

While the advance has been small in individual cases, the aggregate has been while the avance has been much more than this. During the year nually, and the actual advance has been much more than this. During the year ending June 30, 1902, the railroads carried in round numbers 1,200,000 tons of freight. The increase of a single cent a ton would amount to \$12,000,000 tons of the public by the In the opinion of the interstate Commerce Commission, these advances in rates have been due to concerted action by the railroads, as is evidenced by fact in rates have been due to concerted action by the railroads, as its evidence by facts that all the railroads from as large a center as Chicago simultaneously advanced their rates on grain to the Atlantic seaboard. The Commerce Commission further finds that these advances have not been made by expert traffic men to meet changed conditions, but at the dictation of the financial heads of the railroads who desired

In commenting on the advance as a whole the Interstate Commerce Commission states that they did not discuss the propriety of these advances, as it would be most unfair for the public to refuse to allow any such advances if they were just and reasonable. The railroad, managers, on their side, say that they are entitled to a share of the general prosperity of the country and have therefore raised their traf-fic rates, which they appear to have done, for since 1897, the average railway's gross fic rates, which they appear to have done, for since 1897, the average railway's gross receipts, per mile, have increased 53 per cent., net receipts 57 per cent. while the capitalization has only increased 45 per tent. In the opinion of the Commission the danger of the situation lies not so much in the fact that the railroads get more money in good times as in the attitude of the railroads in reducing rates in hard times. The destruction of cotton by the boil weevil in Texas and the depression of the iron market in America, did not get a cheaper rate for farmer or the iron market who were shipping for home consumption, and, therefore, nothing manufacturers, who were snipping for nome consumption, and, therefore, nothing was done by the railroads to tend to increase the use of the iron manufacturers' articles or to help the farmers, who had been so seriously damaged by the cotton pest,

In the opinion of the Commission, there is no way to prevent this advance, and, they are improper, the only redress of the public is to bring the case to the atten-tion of the Commission and wait for that body to investigate and then report, and as at present constituted, the report cannot be followed by an order of any bind-

JANUARY 2D IN WORLD'S HISTORY

The Jesuits reinstated in France.

The French surprised and captured Frankfurt-on-the-Maine.

The coffin of Edward I. opened by a deputation from the society of antiquarians, after it had been buried 467 years. In a coffin of yellow stone they found the royal body in perfect preservation, enclosed in two wrappers, one of them gold tissue, strongly waxed and fresh, the other and outermost considerably decayed.

and outermost considerably decayed.

1777.

Cannonading at Trenton; the British repulsed in their attempt to cross Sanpink Creek bridge. In the night General Washington retired, leaving his fires burning.

Georgia ratified the Constitution of the United States without amendment, being the fourth State to do so 1810. Orders were received from Paris by Murat, King of Naples, to seize and immediately dispose of all American vessels and cargoes.

1887. John Cuffee, a negro slave, died at Norfolk, Va., aged 120 years. He

George Blatterman, professor of modern languages in the Virginia

JANUARY 3D IN WORLD'S HISTORY

Birthday of Marcus Tullius Cicero, the Roman orator.

Philip V. of Spain abdicated the throne in favor of his son, Louis, but dying the same year, Philip resumed the crown again.

Battle of Princeton, N. J., between the British and a division of the American army, under General Washington. The British lost 100 men and 300 more who had taken refuge in the college were forced to surrnder. 1805.

Alexander Wedderburn, Lord of Rosslyn, died. He distinguished him-

self as a lawyer, and was appointed solicitor-general in 1771, in which office he is remarkable for having insuited Franklin in arguing on American affairs before the privy council. 1815.

British frigate Junon, Captain C. Upton, captured the American privateer Gurrier, of four guns and sixty men, from Portsmouth, N. H.

1853.

The Pantheon, in Paris, reopened as the church of St. Genevieve.

1864.

Lee Slater Overman, United States senator of North Carolina, born.

like Richmond, to sacrifice the essential to the unessential. Richmond, Va. L. H. BLAIN.

Alderman's Inauguration. Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Alderman's Inauguration.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir.—Apropos of the appeal to the Alumni of the University to attend the Inauguration of President Alderman on the 18th of next April. I wish to after a suggestion. The session of the University of 1885-68 was in many respects a notable one; chiefly that the students were mostly just from the Confederate Army. Never, I suppose, did the University ever have as many mature men upon its roll as students—there were colonels, majors, captains, lieutenants and privates. It was a critical period in the history of Virgmia. Federal troops were in Charlottesville, as in will have elapsed since the poor and defeated soldier gathered "his little all" together, to get a prefession, or to renew wis studies, and begin the battle of death. I want to susgest that here be a meeting of the students of that session they fought their last battle, but there are a great many left.

I weal Daniel. Anderson, White, White, Stiles, Billiam, Bryan, Dow, Dow, Wise, Hawes, Floct, Bagby, Jones, Broadus, Watts, Woods, Fishburne and could name many others.

It was a stremuous session; money was scarpe, and iso were good clothes; but there are a great many left.

I was a stremuous session; money was scarpe, and iso were good clothes; but there were many beautiful siris at the University and in and around Charlottesville, and life was pleasant.

I shall now forget the scene on Final Day when Dixle was played by the band and when General Fitzhugh Lee made his remarkable speech, in response

DESKS, CHAIRS.

from the solder students. "I was foroibly reminded at Appomatiox Counthouse that I had nothing more to say." I remember that I was with a young lady on that occasion, and that when Dixle was played, she stood on the top of the back of the bench, and yelled almost as an Indian. The pent up emotion exploded and such yelling and hurrahing. I have never heard from the throats of any crowd.

I make the suggestion to Dr. Page, the dean of the University, that the effort be made to get the Alumni together according to date of session, or sessions, attended.

Williamsburg, Va.

The Insurance Trust Editor of The Times-Dispatch

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I think the question of insurance rates one of vivil interest to the people of our State at present, and I ... ope the people of our State at present, and I ... ope the people of Virginis, will give the matter proper thought and be prepared at the proper time to remedy the evil in a measure at least. The local agents of South Boston say the insurance managers claimed that if the Wharton law was repealed it would be better for the insurers, and that rates would be lowered and on the other hand they have been raised over, much in many instances within my knowledge. One good brock and the risk in our town was eagerly written before at 2 per cent and now they demand 3..., and many others I could mention. What we want is free and open competitude and then there would be no room four omplaint if their rates were even in given. But in the combination of the morey. The rates have been raised so much in many instances as to make them practically prohibitive. The merohauts and manufacturers of Richmon and other cities and towns lawe to go out and get business in the open market and many no protection against other farms in same lines, there being no combination as to terms or prices, and that is all we ask or want at the hands of the insurance companies.

R. L. BARHOUR. Sir.-I think the question of insurance

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